ORAL QUESTION H-0506/03 for Question Time at the part-session in September I 2003 pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure by Efstratios Korakas to the Commission

Subject: The Peloponnese, the poorest region in Europe

According to the new ranking of EU regions published by Eurostat, six of the ten poorest regions in the EU are located in Greece. In half of these regions there has been a decline in the per capita GDP; this is true of the Peloponnese which has a per capita GDP of only 56 units.

Will the Commission say whether it considers that measures to reduce regional disparities, in particular in respect of Greece, are inadequate, and how it can explain that the poorest Greek regions are diverging from, instead of converging with, the Community average, in particular the Peloponnese which is continuing to decline, and is becoming the poorest region in Europe?

Tabled: 17.07.2003

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